

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of)
 Wolfgang Schmidbauer et al.) Group:
 Serial No.:)
 Filed:) Examiner:
 Title: DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUSLY MELTING)
 AND REFINING INORGANIC COMPOUNDS,)
 ESPECIALLY GLASSES AND GLASS CERAMICS)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT DELETING
 MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculating the filing fee, please enter the following amendments to the application.

IN THE CLAIMS

In claim 3, line 1, delete "or 2".

In claim 5, line 1, delete "one of claims 1 to 4" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 6, lines 1 and 2, delete "one of claims 1 to 5" and substitute therefor --claim 1--.

In claim 8, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 or 7" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 9, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 8" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 10, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 9" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 11, line 1, delete "one of the claims 6 to 10" and substitute therefor --claim 6--.

In claim 12, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 11" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 13, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 12" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 14, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 13" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

In claim 15, line 1, delete "one of the claims 5 to 14" and substitute therefor --claim 5--.

Please add the following new claims:

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that a cooling groove (4) is provided downstream of the refining vessel (3).

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.

18. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the melting vessel (1) and/or refining vessel (3) are disposed within a conductive screening cage.